AN

EPISTLE

TO THE

HOUSHOLD

OF THE

SEED OF ABRAHAM,

AND

To every Family in Particular,

TO

READ and PRACTICE.

The Lord ſaith, *I know* Abraham, *that he will Command his Children, and his Houſhold after him, and they ſhall keep the Way of the Lord, to do Juſtice and Judgment, that the Lord may bring upon* Abraham *that he hath ſpoken of him.* Gen. 18. 19.

Re-Printed in the Year 1698.

FRIENDS' LIBRARY.
10Mo 25 1893
142 N. SIXTEENTH ST.,
PHILADELPHIA.
HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
GIFT OF
HAVERFORD COLLEGE LIBRARY
MAY 2 1935

An EPISTLE *to the* HOUSHOLD, &c.

FRiends, Consider how the Blessing of the Lord came upon the Obedient and Faithful to the Lord, and rested upon them. The Lord said to *Abraham*, *Get thee out of thy Country, and from thy Kindred, and from thy Fathers House*, &c. *And I will make of thee a great Nation, and I will bless thee*, &c. *And thou shalt be a Blessing, and I will Bless them that Bless thee, and Curse them that Curse thee; and in thee, and in thy Seed, shall all the Families of the Earth be blessed.* *Abraham* obeyed the Lord, and went forth of *Ur* of the *Caldees*, and so he left all the Religions and Worships, and Teachers of the Country of the *Caldees* behind him, and followed the Lord; *And the Lord said unto Abraham, Walk before me, and be thou perfect*, Gen. 17. 1. And again, *The Lord said unto Abraham, Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty Nation, and all the Nations of the Earth shall be Blessed in him*, Gen. 12. 1, 2, 3. and 18. 18. And again, *The Lord said unto Abraham, That in Blessing I will Bless thee, and in Multiplying I will Multiply thy Seed as the Stars of Heaven, and as the Sand which is upon the Sea-shoar, and thy Seed shall possess the Gates of his Enemies, and in thy Seed shall all the Nations of the Earth be blessed, because thou hast obeyed my Voice.* *Abraham* obeying Gods Voice brought this Blessing upon him, as in *Gen.* 22. *And the Lord said, I know Abraham, that he will Command his Children, and his Houshold after him, That they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do Justice and Judgment, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham all that which he hath spoken of him.* Now you may see here what it is that brings the Blessing, and kept the Blessing upon *Abraham* and his Seed, &c. *Now if you be of the true Faith, you are of* Abraham, *and are Blessed with Faithful Abraham*, Gal. 3. 9. And in this Seed and Faith of *Abraham*, you will Command your Children and your Houshold after you, to keep the way of the Lord, to do Justice and Judgment, that the Lord may bring the Blessing upon you and your Houshold, and Children; keeping in the same Faith and Seed of *Abraham*, and you and your Children and your Houshold keeping in the way of the Lord, to do Justice and Judg-

ment, then I say the Blessing which came upon *Abraham* will come upon you and upon your Children and your Household, and then you will know the Promise of God fulfilled, *Cursed is he that Curseth thee, and Blessed is he that Blesseth thee*; and therefore live and walk in the Seed, *which bruises the Head of the Serpent*, in which Seed all Nations are Blessed, yea, all Families, Households and Children, in which Faith and Seed *you Command* (mark command) *your Children and your Household after you, to keep the way of the Lord, as Abraham did, and to do Justice and Judgment*, Gen. 18. & 19. Now you that have not this Authority to Command *over* your Children and Households, you are not in the same Faith and Seed of *Abraham*, to wit, *To Command your Children and Household after you, to keep the way of the Lord, and to do Justice and Judgment*. Now the Lord had a Confidence in *Abraham*, and so he hath in all them that be of his Seed and Faith now, that they will Command their Children and Household to keep the way of the Lord, as he did, and walk before the Lord, and to do Justice and Judgment; and that *Abraham*'s Family and Children should not go back again into those Country Religions or ways which the Seed and Faith of *Abraham* hath and had led them out of: for they that are commanded to come out of them into Gods way, into the way of the Lord, are commanded to keep in the Way of the Lord, and they are to command their Children and their Household to keep the Way of the Lord, and to keep out of all the ways of the World, and out of all the ungodly unjust ways, in the Seed, *which bruises the Head of the Serpent*. *And the Lord said to Isaac, I will make thy Seed to multiply as the Stars of Heaven*, &c. *And in thy Seed shall all the Nations of the Earth be Blessed*, Gen. 26. 4. Now here you may see that *Isaac* inherited his Fathers Inheritance in the Seed, and in the Faith and Way of the Lord, in which Seed all Nations are Blest, and so do all they that be of the Faith and Seed of *Abraham*, that walk in the steps of faithful *Abraham*, in the way of the Lord, and obey his Voice, &c. Inherit the Blessing of *Abraham*, for so you may see it was not the only Care that their Children might inherit a little Earth, but that they might inherit the Seed and the Faith, which had the Blessing.

And Isaac said to Jacob, God Almighty Bless thee, and give thee the Blessing of Abraham, to thee and to thy Seed with thee, Gen. 28. And this *Isaac* spake to *Jacob* before *Jacob* had any Children, and here you may see *Isaac*'s Care that *Jacob* and his Seed might inherit the Faith and Blessing of *Abra-*

ham and *Isaac*, and this should be their first Inheritance, and then they should inherit the outward Land, and this should be the care of all them that walk in the steps of the Faith of *Abraham*, to see that their Children and Household do inherit that Faith, Seed, and Blessing of *Abraham* in the first place, by keeping in the way of the Lord, &c. And they are to *Command* their Children to walk in the way of the Lord, &c. that they may and you may see, that *Jacob* did inherit the Blessing of *Abraham* and *Isaac*, in *Abraham's* and *Isaac's* Seed and Faith.

When the Lord said unto *Jacob*, *Thy Seed shall be as the dust of the Earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the West, and to the East, and to the North, and to the South, and in thee, and in thy Seed shall all the Families of the Earth be blessed.* So here you may see *Jacob's* Possession who did inherit the Blessing of *Abraham* and *Isaac*, &c. And they that are of his Seed and Faith, which keep the Way of the Lord, &c. They do inherit this Blessing in the Seed, in which all Nations are blest. And this is according to *Christ's* Doctrine, *Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you*, to wit, *What ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, or wherewith you shall be cloathed, for after all these things that are below, do the Gentiles seek: for your heavenly Father knoweth that you have need of all these things.* And here *Christ*, which was of the Seed of *Abraham*, and of *David*, according to the Flesh, would have People to seek their Inheritance in the Kingdom of Heaven, and its Righteousness, before they seek after outward things, and they were to *lay up for themselves Treasure in Heaven*, &c. And to know that Portion for them and their Children, *Mat.* 6. And the Apostle saith, *The Children of the Promise are counted for the Seed*, Rom. 9. 8. *For in Isaac shall thy Seed be called.* Gen. 21. 12. And *Christ* saith, *The good Seed are the Children of the Kingdom*, Mat. 13. 38. And this is the Seed in which all Nations are blest; who keep the way of the Lord, and Justice and Judgment, such the Almighty hath blessed with *the Blessings from Above, the Blessings of the Deep, the Blessings of the Breast, and of the Womb*, Gen. 49. *And he will also bless the Fruit of the Land, thy Corn and thy Wine, and thy Oyl, and the increase of thy Kine, and the Flocks of thy Sheep*, Deut. 7. *And they that serve the Lord their God, he will bless their Bread and their Water*, Exod. 23. *And a faithful Man shall abound with Blessings*, Prov. 28, 20. So you may see they that are in the Faith and in the holy Seed, which keeps in the way of the Lord, and com-

mands

mands their Children and their Houſhold to do the ſame, they have the bleſſings from Heaven above, and the bleſſings below, yea the bleſſings of the eternal Inheritance, and of the Kingdom of God, and that was their *chief Inheritance*, that all the Faithful Seed of *Abraham* ſought to poſſeſs their Houſhold and their Children in, who did Command their Children and Houſhold to keep the way of God, that they might inherit the Bleſſing. *David* ſaith, *Bleſſed is the Man that walketh not in the Counſel of the ungodly, nor ſtandeth in the way of Sinners, nor ſitteth in the ſeat of the ſcornful. But his Delight is in the Law of the Lord, and in his Law doth he meditate day and night. Now here is the condition of them that do enjoy the Bleſſing, they muſt keep from the Counſel of the ungodly, and the way of Sinners, and the ſeat of the Scornful.* Now here you may ſee *Davids* Inſtruction how People might inherit the Bleſſing.

Levit. 10. *That you may put a difference betwixt the Holy and Unholy, and between the Clean and Unclean, and that you may teach your Children all the Statutes which the Lord hath ſpoken unto them by the hand of Moſes.* And if it was ſo in the Old *Teſtament*, that they might learn the Statutes there, ſurely much more they are to learn the Commands of Chriſt in his New *Teſtament*.

And in *Deut.* 4. 9, 10. *They were to teach their Sons and their Sons Sons*; and again, they were to *Teach their Children, that they might Learn to fear God, all the days they lived upon the Earth*, &c. This they were to teach their Children; and again, In *Deut.* 11. it was the Command of God, That they were to teach their Children the Commandments of God, and they were to ſpeak of them, *when they ſat in their Houſe, and when they walkt by the Way, when they lay down, and when they roſe up:* And in *Deut.* 30. *Moſes* told them, *That the Word was nigh them, in their Mouths and in their Hearts, that they might do it.* And *David* ſaid, *Come you Children, hearken to me, and I will teach you the fear of the Lord. O fear the Lord, you Saints, there is no want to them that fear him*, Pſal. 34. 9, 11.

Ye that fear the Lord, truſt in the Lord, he is their Help and their Shield, Pſal. 115. 11. And you may ſee all along, in the Old *Teſtament*, they that feared the Lord, were Commanded to teach and inſtruct their Children the way of the Lord, that they might walk in it, and inherit the Bleſſing, which was a better Portion than outward Riches, which will paſs away, *for they make themſelves Wings and fly away. Solomon* ſaith, *Train up a Child in the*

Way

Way he should go, and when he is Old, he will not depart from it: Foolishness is bound up in the Heart of a Child, but the rod of Correction shall drive it far from him, Prov. 22. 15. *He that spareth the rod, hateth his Son; but he that loveth him, chastiseth him betimes. By Mercy and Truth Iniquity is purged, and by the fear of the Lord they depart from evil,* Prov. 13. 24. and 16. 6. And the Apostles Command is, *Children to obey their Parents in the Lord, for this is right,* Ephes. 6. 1. and Colos. 1. 3, 20.

It is well-pleasing to the Lord, *Children to obey their Parents*; and the *Bishops, or Elders were to rule well their own Houses, and to have their Children in subjection with all gravity*; and likewise, *The Deacons were to rule their own Children and their own Houses well,* 1 Tim. 3. And likewise you may see the good report of the Widows *bringing up Children, which followed every good Work,* &c. And in Titus, such as were *Elders* or *Overseers*, their *Children were to be faithful, not accused of riot, or unruly*; *and the aged Women were to be of good Behaviour as becometh Holiness,* &c. *and Teachers of good things, and that they teach the younger Women to be sober,* &c. And that *the Word of God be not blasphemed.* And *Titus* was to *exhort Young Men to be sober-minded*; *for the Grace of God which brings Salvation hath appeared unto all Men, teaching us, That denying Ungodliness and worldly Lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present World, that being justified by his Grace, we should be made Heirs according to the Hope of Eternal Life.* And Peter saith, *As obedient Children, not fashioning your selves according to your former Lusts in your Ignorance, but as he which hath called you is Holy, so be you Holy in all manner of Conversation*; *and be not like them, feeding themselves without fear, which are the Clouds without Rain, and Wells without Water, and Trees without Fruit,* whom *Jude* declares against; *such cannot eat and drink to the Praise and Glory of God,* &c. So you see what care, both in the Old and New *Testament*, the Faithful Parents had to teach their Children the Way of the Lord; and the Lord hath a Confidence in all them that fear him, and are of the Faith and Seed of *Abram*, that they will not only *Admonish their Children and Houshold*, but *Command their Children and their Houshold after them, to keep the Way of the Lord,* &c. Gen. 18. *And to keep out of the Wicked Ways of the World.* The Apostle saith, *They which be of Faith are blessed with faithful Abraham*, and so are all the Children of God by Faith in *Christ Jesus*, and *if you be Christs, then are you Abrahams Seed, and Heirs according to the Promise,* Gal. 3. And so the Children of God are counted for the Seed,

which

which good Seed Christ saith, *are the Children of the Kingdom.* And the Apostle spake to the *Romans, that they should walk in the steps of the Faith of Abraham.* Again, the Apostle saith to the *Corinthians* concerning *Titus, Walked not we in the same Spirit? Walked not we in the same steps?* And in the first Epistle of *Peter, Christ hath suffered for us, leaving us an Example, that we should follow his steps, who did not sin, neither was guile found in his Mouth.* So these were holy steps, and are a religious holy People, that walk in the steps of faithful *Abraham*, and of *Christ*, and the *Apostles*, and these have the *pure Religion, and do visit the Fatherless and Widows in their affliction, and keep themselves unspotted from the World*; and these are they that are *circumcised with the Spirit, and baptised with the holy Ghost, and serve God day and night, and worship him in Spirit and Truth*; and these are the Religious Families, which are of the *Holy, Divine, Pure, and Precious Faith, which Christ is the Author and Finisher of*, which Faith purifieth their heart, and is their victory, by which they have access to God, in which they please him, in that which *Christ is the Author and Finisher of*, which is called the *Gift of God*; and they that are of this Faith, the same are the *Children of* Abraham, *and are blessed with faithful* Abraham; *and* Abraham *was called the Friend of God*, and so are all his Children that be of his Seed and Faith, they are not Friends of the Devil, the wicked and unrighteous one, but him and his works they forsake, who are Friends of God, they are Friends of Righteousness and Holiness, *&c.* And such the Blessings of God rest upon them that are of the Seed, and walk in the Seed, *Christ, that bruises the Serpents head, and in that Seed are all Nations blest, and out of the mouth of the Seeds Seed shall not Gods Word depart*; but it shall abide in the mouth of the Seeds Seed (*this Living Word of God*) but the Word of God doth not abide in them, who make a Profession of the Scriptures, but live not in the Power and Spirit of the holy Ghost, that gave forth the Scriptures; such are like the *Jews, John* 5. and such think to have Life in the Scriptures, but they will not come unto *Christ* that they may have Life; for none come to *Christ* but by believing in the Light, which is the Life in him, the Word.

Now dear Friends and Brethren in *Christ Jesus*, if you keep in the Seed and Faith of *Abraham* in it Command your Children and Families to walk in the way of the Lord, for in it you have Authority, that they may keep the Pure Holy and Righteous Way of the Lord after you, when you are gone, that they may succeed you in the Faith, and Seed, and Way of the LORD, and in the Blessing of GOD, as *Isaac* and *Jacob* did *Abraham*. Amen. G. F.

THE END.